

Circuit

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Reward goes to sheriff for nabbing dumper

(Above) Snohomish County Sheriff deputies check dumped tanks at several sites near Monroe Substation. The tanks were doubly dangerous – from the unstable acetylene gas and from the asbestos used inside to stabilize the gas under pressure. The Snohomish line crew found the discarded tanks on BPA property and notified the sheriff's office. (Below) Denis Sjoquist (left) presents check to Snohomish Deputy Dane Sant as Sheriff Rick Bart looks on.

Photos by Glenn Taylor

BPA gave a reward under the Federal Crime Witness Program to the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office on Nov. 1. Denis Sjoquist, Snohomish regional manager, presented a letter and a \$1,000 check to Deputy Dane Sant and Sheriff Rick Bart.

The reward was for Sant's work tracking down the person who dumped hazardous material on BPA property. The Snohomish line crew had discovered more than 150 acetylene tanks on BPA property around the Monroe Substation.

The tanks were pressurized cylinders of varied sizes. Line foreman Bob Sweet called the sheriff's office right away and then called BPA's security.

Jeff Millenor in security knows about acetylene and pressurized tanks. Acetylene gas is used in welding. Millenor says it "is highly unstable and can become explosive at pressure above 14 pounds per square inch." To further worsen the hazard and risk, the tanks contain asbestos. Millenor says industries use asbestos to stabilize gas in pressurized containers.

Deputy Sant answered Sweet's call and examined the site and hazardous cylinders. He later tracked down the person who dumped the material. The person then cleaned up the BPA sites. The offender had been traced to a large military surplus purchase.

Millenor says that the cleanup would have cost BPA thousands of dollars because of the hazardous materials in the acetylene tanks.

Judi leaves . . .

On the morning of Nov. 9, Judi Johansen announced to employees that she was leaving BPA. She said she had accepted a position with PacifiCorp and that Nov. 17 would be her last day.

In a letter to all employees, Johansen said she had many emotions on leaving. She said she was "proud to be associated with you in your public service to the region." And, "grateful for all I have learned from you."

At a press conference later, the departing administrator and CEO said what she thought were key issues for the Northwest.

"All of us in the energy industry need to work together to help the DSI's," she said. "We need to continue to work for a unified fish plan for salmon survival. We need to put hundreds of millions (of dollars) annually into our regional transmission system."

Then she turned to BPA. "I hope the region will rally around and keep a strong BPA for the river resources we have," she said. "And not continue to fight over differences in allocation of the river's resources."



Photos by (clockwise from top) Gerald Lee, Nick Christmas and Jack Odgaard

"I want to thank all of the employees of BPA who I've worked with," Johansen said. "I'll miss them all but we'll still be working in the energy field together. I will continue to be a big fan of BPA."

Johansen had a chance to say goodbye to people at open houses the next week at Ross and at headquarters. Many employees stood in line. Humorous exchanges took place. And more than a few folks had tears and "protested" her leaving. But all wished her well in the future.

To a vast number of employees, BPA was losing an administrator who talked their language and who truly cared about them. And they wanted Johansen to know how *they* felt about *her*.

(See page 8, ... amid friendly "protests").



Employees had a laugh when the icing on a slice of cake read, "We're History." For the full cake message and the full story on the celebration for RTO workers, see page 3.

Photo by Jack Odgaard

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Fisheye photos from the Ross Substation yard look like Christmas tree ornaments. Here they remind everyone to be safe with your holiday lights and candles. And to have a happy and joyful season.

Photos by Jack Odgaard